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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

TECHNICAL NOTE

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MODIFICATION OF THE MOTOROLA 12 UNIT BATTERY CHARGER

When charging several radio batteries at the same time with the Motorola Multiple 12 Unit Battery Charger, it is possible for someone to take a radio or battery into the field that has not been charged. No provisions have been made to check the condition of the battery.

The modification we have made will not tell the capacity of the battery, only its charge state--charged or discharged. The charger was modified by installing a 0 to 15 volt, DC meter and a double pole double throw switch on the lower right hand corner. The switch and meter are wired to the lower right hand corner receptacle.

In one position of the switch, the charger is disconnected and the meter reads battery voltage. When the switch is in the other position, the meter is switched out of the circuit and the charger back in.

When checking a radio battery with this system, the radio must be turned on and keyed. Test have proved that if the battery voltage drops below 10 volts, the radio should not be taken into the field. A discharged battery will drop to 10 volts and lower after the push-to-talk button has been held down for 10 to 15 seconds. This system will not insure anyone that his radio will last all day. It does assure him that his battery is in a stage of charge when he starts the day. This system, if followed, can save many hours of running back and forth to a base camp or field office to exchange radios or to charge a battery.

The cost of this modification when installed by a Bureau electronic technician is $5.57.

FOR ADDITIONAL COPIES WRITE TO DIRECTOR, PORTLAND SERVICE CENTER, BOX 3861, PORTLAND, ORE., 97208